

# Italians Repulse Teutons' Supreme Offensive With Heavy Losses To Enemy

## HAIG REPORTS NEW ADVANCE OF POSITIONS NEAR CAMBRAI

(Continued from First Page.)

the enemy is hurling its every ounce of strength in the present attack.

Two determined and powerful drives on Melette were repulsed with frightful loss to the enemy. The first of these two attacks ended in violent hand-to-hand fighting and resulted in the capture of many enemy prisoners. The second drive resulted in the capture of some hill positions on the Asiago, which military officials agree are not to be held as serious losses.

## BRITISH LINES SLIGHTLY WITHDRAWN; GERMANS UNAWARE OF MOVE

LONDON, Dec. 6.—British lines southwest of Lavacquerie were "advanced slightly," Field Marshal Haig reported today.

The official statement announced a "withdrawal for a short distance" of British troops in a salient in the neighborhood of Royelles Sur Lescaut and Bourlon wood. The move was accomplished "without interference from the enemy. Until late yesterday Haig said the Germans were not aware of the withdrawal. Prior to this readjustment of the British lines the enemy's field works were systematically destroyed.

In his regular interview granted American newspaper men yesterday, the British general, F. H. Maurice, director of operations, announced the likelihood that British forces around Cambrai would be forced to make certain readjustments in their lines. Presumably Field Marshal Haig is following this plan out in the operations noted above.

## KAISER MADE SECRET PEACE PLEA IN AUGUST, RUSSIAN PAPERS REVEAL

PETROGRAD, Dec. 6.—Germany made formal effort to obtain peace last August through Spain, according to revelations in the latest chapter of "secret diplomatic archives" made public today by Bolshevik Foreign Minister Trotsky.

The archives consisted of a telegram from M. Nabokoff, naval charge d'affaires at London, to provisional Foreign Minister Terestchenko, dated in August, 1917, and notifying Russia that British Foreign Minister Balfour had called a special meeting of ambassadors of France, Italy, the United States and Japan. To this assembly he said he had received information from Madrid that "a high personage in Berlin had informed the Spanish ambassador that Germany wished to negotiate."

Balfour non-committal.

Balfour said, according to Nabokoff's message, Britain was ready to receive any German communication regarding peace and to consider it in conjunction with the allies.

Whether there was any reply from Germany to this non-committal statement was not indicated in today's revelations.

A number of newspapers under special permission from Trotsky, have been publishing "secret state papers" covering all the period of the war. Trotsky made them public on the ground that the Bolshevik plan was to give the people all information of diplomatic dealings.

## BOURLON DESCRIBED AS "POCKET OF HELL" WHILE CAMBRAI BATTLE RAGES

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS, United Press Staff Correspondent.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Bourlon is a pocket of hell today. The trees of Bourlon are splintered away. The ground is evilly pock-marked by the dead disease of war. Pools of slimy, suggestively red water stretch everywhere. Corpses are scattered about sky. The defenders are too busy burying them. A horrible stench from these torn and mangled remains rises to mingle with the fumes of exploding shells and with Prussian gas.

Overhead Roche shrapnel bursts in



an everlasting barrage. Gas shells monotonously heaved over spread their deadly vapors about. Defenders must wear their masks practically every minute of the day and night. Scuffling around in the horrors of the wood, they fit into the picture exactly. They look like some Dantean fiends of the inferno in their goggling masks.

## SLAVS SAY KAISER MUST KEEP TROOPS FROM WEST FRONT

PETROGRAD, Dec. 6.—Russia will insist if an armistice is signed with Germany that none of the Teuton troops now on the east front be transferred to the west front for use against the allies. Foreign Minister Trotsky declared today in a speech at the Circus Moderne.

He also announced General Johnson, American attaché, had visited Trotsky's headquarters at the Bolsheviks' protest to headquarters "had been misunderstood." America, according to General Johnson's statement as repeated by Trotsky, "did not wish to interfere with Russia's internal affairs."

## LONDON DENIES AUSTRIAN REPORT OF ROUMANIAN ARMISTICE OVERTURES

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Quoting an Austrian official statement concerning a Roumanian proposal for the negotiation of an armistice, a British official announcement tonight says: "There is no truth whatever in this shameful statement."

The Austrian report follows: "The commander-in-chief of the Russian Roumanian troops between the Dniester and the Black Sea yesterday afternoon approached Archduke Joseph and Field Marshal von Mackensen with a proposal for introducing negotiations regarding an armistice. Our army leaders answered in the affirmative and negotiations will proceed with peace negotiations."

## RUPPRECHT CONTINUES PRESSURE ON BYNG'S SALIENT NEAR CAMBRAI

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS, United Press Staff Correspondent.

FRANCE, Dec. 6.—Crown Prince Rupprecht continued his everlasting pressure on General Byng's salient today. Heavy fighting was occurring on the northern and southern sides of the British "bulge" in the German lines.

The weather is exceptionally clear. The cold, however, is covering the pools in shell craters with ice.

## EIGHT FOE AIRPLANES DOWNED BY FRENCH FLYERS, PARIS REPORTS

PARIS, Dec. 6.—Eight German airplanes were brought down on Monday by French aviators, the war office announced.

The statement follows: "Enemy raids in the sector of Craonne and north of Haguenau were repulsed.

"We penetrated a German trench and brought back prisoners. The artillery was engaged in rather spirited actions on the right bank of the Meuse. Elsewhere the night was calm.

"Enemy aviators last night bombarded the region north of Nancy. Three persons were wounded. On Monday two German airplanes were brought down by our pilots and six others were compelled to land within enemy lines."

ously mismanaged and dishonestly exploited railroads of the United States.

## TODAY

(Continued From Page One.)

This newspaper is convinced that the power and influence of the President will successfully oppose the suggestion that the public pocket should become the property of the privately owned railroad.

We do not believe that Congress will permit the private car profiteers to put their dipper into the billions that are being poured out.

If Congress should permit it, the public now or a little later will find a way of making Congress know what it thinks of the transaction.

The people will endure much and sacrifice everything to win the war—they gladly applaud conscription of their lives and of their money—for WAR.

But the people will not permit in the name of war or anything else the financing of a dishonest railroad system at the expense of a heavily taxed people.

The Government does not hesitate to say to a million mothers, "Give me your son, I need his life, and I will pay you MY price, \$1 a day."

That being the case the same Government should not hesitate to say to the little group that own the railroads, "Give me those railroads, I need them, I'll pay you a fair price. I'll keep them, I'll operate them, I'll make them efficient—what you have never done."

## EUROPEAN WAR NEWS SUMMARY

What Italian military opinion considers to be a renewal of the Austro-German attempt to press through the northern mountain front and thus flank the Piave river line has become apparent in heavy artillery and infantry action initiated by the Teutonic forces in the region of the Asiago plateau. Thus far the Italian defenders have repulsed the invaders at all important points, ceding only minor outpost positions to the Austro-Germans.

The new Teutonic attacks are being delivered considerably to the westward of the previous attempt to breach the Italian line in the north. The last assaults were made between the Piave and the Brenta rivers. The Asiago plateau is westward of the Brenta, the scene of the new offensive being some ten miles in extent between the Brenta and the Asiago rivers. The invaders aim to overrun the Sette Comuni tableland, south of Asiago, and descend upon the plain to Vicenza via the valley of the Astico. Vicenza and Padua, twenty miles to the southeast, are on a line roughly fifty-five miles southwest of the Piave river.

ITALIAN FORCES READY FOR DRIVE.

The Austrian commander-in-chief on this northern front, Field Marshal Von Hostendorff, has been massing artillery of all calibers and great re-enforcements of troops for a considerable time. These movements have been observed by the Italian airmen, and the beginning of the Teutonic attack found the Italian forces prepared and ready.

The Teutonic artillery opened on the Italian positions for the ten miles between Monte Sisemol and Monte Meletta and maintained a terrific bombardment for twenty-four hours without cessation. As the artillery finally slackened, liquid fire was employed ahead of the infantry advance. The infantry were sent against the Italian defenses in successive waves. Italian guns, machine guns and rifle fire plowed into the oncoming troops and finally turned them back after they had suffered fearful losses.

The brunt of the Austro-German attack fell upon the Meletta positions. The assault was delivered in two sections. The first was hurled against the Italians from the northwest and was caught in the Italian barrage, excellently laid down. Few of the Teutonic troops passed beyond the barrage, and those who did were engaged in hand-to-hand fighting and either killed or made prisoner. The second attack was sprung from the northeast, with still larger forces, between Monte Tondarecar and Monte Badenece. The attackers penetrated some Italian trenches, and this forced a slight withdrawal from the advanced line. The battle may be said to be still in progress.

FOE ATTACKS RENEWED AT CAMBRAI.

German attacks against the British in the Cambrai area have been renewed, but they were on a far smaller scale than previously and were rather easily repulsed. Two of these attacks were delivered against the British positions in the vicinity of Gonnelleu, on the southeastern side of the British salient. Another occurred near La Vacquerie, whilst a fourth occurred later again in this sector. Other German advances against the British in the Cambrai area, on the northern and northwestern side of the salient, were dispersed by British gunfire.

On the Flanders front the Germans became active north of the Menin road, east of Ypres, but were quickly repulsed when they attacked. The British countered and improved their positions. Artillery activity has increased along the front held by the Belgians, in the vicinity of Dixmude.

On the French front artillery activity has increased on the Aisne front, near Craonne, and in the Champagne, near Mornovillers. On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) artillery and infantry have been active, but achieved nothing.

PEACE RESOLUTION IS INTRODUCED BY LONDON

Congressman Meyer London, Socialist, of New York, today introduced a peace resolution in the House.

The resolution favors immediate establishment by Congress of an international league to bring about a durable peace.

EXPLOSIVES TO BE KEPT AWAY FROM AUSTRIAN MINERS

Rigid measures have been taken by Attorney General Gregory, at the suggestion of Fuel Administrator Garfield, to prevent explosives coming into the possession of Austrians employed in the mining regions.

The largest group of Austrian miners are at work in the coal fields of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and they will be able hereafter to obtain explosives only under the greatest restrictions. The law licensing the use of high explosives prohibits their possession by any alien enemy and he will not be permitted to buy them.

Many Austrians Loyal.

Legislation will probably be necessary to determine the status of Poles, Hungarians and Bohemians now serving in the United States army. In the event war is declared on Austria-Hungary, several thousand Austrians, now serving in the army, owe allegiance to their native land. Secretaries Lansing and Baker are expected to handle the problem.

Many Austrians now in the army are loyal to the United States, but their presence as aliens, which they would be if war is declared, would be undesirable.

May We Naturalize.

Proposals are being made that they either be made American citizens or be accepted in so far as the application of enemy alien laws go, have been made.

In industrial plants where Austrians are employed, it is said that no changes are contemplated.

GERMAN PLOTTERS PLEAD GUILTY TO SERVE HOMELAND

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 6.—Further confessions of guilt are looked for today from the thirty-four defendants on trial here charged with conspiring to foment revolution in India against British rule, following the admission of guilt by three of the leaders.

"I think we can serve our country by pleading guilty and avoiding further exposures in court proceedings," said Lieutenant Von Brincken, former German consular agent, in pleading guilty. "The less said about these cases the better it will be for Germany."

Similar statements were made by two others. They were George Rodick, former German consul at Honolulu, and H. A. Schroeder, who succeeded him there. Von Brincken was formerly military attaché of the German consulate here.

PAPAL ATTENTION NOW DIRECTED TO EVENTS IN RUSSIA

ROME, Dec. 6.—Pope Benedict has turned his attention to the Russian situation and is watching carefully developments of the Bolshevik government, according to announcement by Cardinal Gasparri, papal secretary.

It was stated that the Pope will shortly issue a statement dealing with the recent publication of the Russian diplomatic documents. This however, will not be done until the correct text has been secured.

The papal secretary denied that the Pope has addressed either to President Wilson or Secretary of State Lansing a communication setting forth that there were extenuating circumstances regarding the late Vatican peace note.

PINKERTON MAN DYING.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 6.—Edward Shevlin, detective in charge of Pinkerton forces at various race tracks over the country, is believed dying here of pneumonia. Shevlin lives in Baltimore.

UNIVERSITY RESCINDS BERNSTORFF DEGREE

MADISON, Wis., Dec. 6.—Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, but now the Kaiser's representative at the court of the Sultan of Turkey, no longer bears the degree of doctor of laws conferred upon him by the University of Wisconsin.

The board of regents of the university, at a meeting yesterday, rescinded their action of 1909, when the degree was conferred on the ambassador.

Fifty Dollars Reward LOST Cedar box, with two initials, containing personal papers, between 17th and H sts. and 15th and N. Y. ave., between 7 and 8 o'clock p. m. A reward of \$50—no questions asked. Apply BOX 49, this office.

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